GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:927
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
LIFTING THE BAN ON EXPORT OF ONION
UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban on export of onion completely :

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that non-lifting of ban on export of onion is leading to recession in onion prices which in turn is causing a lot of harm to the interests of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the justification behind the Government`s decision for not lifting the ban on export of onion?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (d) : No, Sir. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Review Committee comprising of representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Commerce and NAFED which reviews periodically the seasonal availability of onion taking into consideration the stock position, market arrivals, crop situation and domestic and international price and recommends release of quantities of onion for export. The prices of onion in the major Mandis in Maharashtra during the first half of this year has been in the range of Rs.171 and Rs.700 per quintal as compared to Rs.121 and Rs.350 per quintal during the same period last year. The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products and farm goods is governed principally by the concerns of India`s food security, maximising farm income and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. The present export policy of onion has helped the farmers by way of stabilisation in prices ensuring increased off-take from the farm and higher returns for their produce while keeping the interests of consumers in balance.